

# 7 Enter Pleas Of Innocent in Bugging Case

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G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr., charged with conspiracy to steal documents and eavesdrop on the Democratic Party's headquarters along with five other men, were put under \$10,000 bond yesterday after all seven defendants pleaded innocent to the charges against them.

Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica ordered the bail for Liddy and Hunt, both former White House aides, despite strong pleas from their lawyers that they be released without bail.

The other five defendants posted bail, ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000, after they were arrested June 17 when they were caught by metropolitan police in the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee.

Sirica gave both the prosecution and the defense 15 days to file all motions and 10 additional days to respond to motions filed by the other side. Sirica denied a defense motion to extend the filing time to 30 days.

At the same time, Sirica said that "because of the current unsettled status of pretrial matters, the court is unable to set a trial date at the present time." Sirica left unanswered the question of whether the criminal trial of the seven defendants will begin before the Nov. 7 general election.

A separate, civil action is pending before U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Richey filed by Lawrence F. O'Brien, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee. That suit names the remaining five defendants in the criminal trial as defendants in a \$1 million damage suit.

The five defendants are James W. McCord, Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzalez. Richey is expected to rule today on a defense motion to dismiss the suit.

Richey filed an order yesterday evening scheduling a preliminary trial conference for Thursday and listing a number of questions to be answered by attorneys in the three separate suits now pending before Richey. The suits include the \$1 million damage

suit brought by O'Brien, a \$5 million counter-suit brought by Maurice Stans, finance chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, against O'Brien and a \$5 million libel suit brought by Stans against O'Brien.

Richey's order stated that the pretrial conference is being called to expedite the cases. Richey noted that attorneys for Stans filed notices yesterday to take 42 depositions, scheduled to run through Nov. 6, as part of their suits against O'Brien. Individuals being called include Kaharine Graham, publisher of The Washington Post; Post managing editor Howard Simons and reporters Bob Woodward, Carl Bernstein and Jim Mann. In addition, reporters from the Evening Star-Daily News and The New York Times are being called. Additionally, officials from the Democratic National Committee and Gary Hart, campaign coordinator for Sen. George S. McGovern and Frank Mankiewicz, political director, were called.

Sirica filed an order Monday appointing himself the judge for the criminal trial. Although Henry Rothblatt, attorney for Barker, Martinez, Sturgis and Gonzalez, told reporters he would ask Sirica to disqualify himself, no formal request was made for disqualification yesterday.

The seven defendants, named in an eight-count indictment returned Friday by a federal grand jury, appeared in court twice yesterday. In a morning appearance, all seven pleaded innocent to a formal reading of the charges against them.

After hearing arguments in both sessions on bail for Liddy and Hunt, Sirica followed the request of principal assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert and ordered a \$10,000 bail for each, directed them to surrender their passports within two days, to make weekly phone calls to the District of Columbia bail agency and to limit their travel to the Washington metropolitan area except for trips by Liddy to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he is serving as a legal consultant, according to his lawyer, and trips to New York by Hunt.